

1. (Amended) A hand held gardening implement, comprising
a frame member having a longitudinal dimension, a proximal end, and a distal
end;

a working element [attached to] adjacent said frame member at said proximal
end of said frame member[, said working element projecting downwardly and
vertically from said frame member];

a brace attached to said frame member [at] adjacent said distal end of said frame
member, wherein said brace has a forearm engaging surface; and

a handle attached to said frame member intermediate said working element and
said brace, said handle [projecting upwardly and vertically] projecting away from said
frame member generally transversely with respect to the longitudinal dimension of
[from] said frame member, wherein the forearm engaging surface is directed in the
opposite direction as the projection of the handle.

3. (Amended) The gardening implement according to claim 1, said forearm engaging
surface of said brace further comprising an elastic cushion for deforming to distribute
force developed by the hand and arm of the user over an increased area of the forearm
of the user.

7. (New) The gardening implement of claim 1, wherein the forearm engaging surface is
curved to conform about a user's forearm.

8. (New) A hand held gardening implement, comprising:

a frame member having a longitudinal dimension, a proximal end, and a distal
end;

a working element adjacent said frame member at said proximal end of said

frame member;

a brace attached to said frame member adjacent said distal end of said frame member, wherein said brace has a forearm engaging portion; and

a handle attached to said frame member intermediate said working element and said brace, said handle projecting away from said frame member generally transversely with respect to the longitudinal dimension of said frame member, wherein the forearm engaging portion is not in the same general plane as the frame member.

9. (New) The gardening implement according to claim 6, said working element including a plurality of tines, whereby said gardening implement is a rake.

10. (New) The gardening implement according to claim 6, said forearm engaging portion of said brace further comprising an elastic cushion for deforming to distribute force developed by the hand and arm of the user over an increased area of the forearm of the user.

11. (New) The gardening implement according to claim 6, said handle further comprising a molded grip for conforming to the configuration of the human hand.

Remarks

This preliminary amendment is being filed with the Rule 53(b) continuation of parent application Serial No. 08/614,158 in which claims 1-4 were retained. Claims 1 and 3 have been amended, and claims 7-11 have been added. Thus, claims 1-4 and 7-11 are currently pending.